

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 12 are amended, and claims 2, 4-5, 8, and 10-11 are canceled. No new matter is added.

I. Telephone Conference

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Nguyen during the conversation on January 23, 2007, are appreciated. During the conversation, Examiner Nguyen indicated the portion of pg. 2, paragraph 4 of the Office Action contains a typographical error. Specifically, the reference to Kasai should read Yoshinaga instead.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9 and 12 contain allowable subject matter. The features of claim 2 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, and the features of claim 8 have been incorporated into independent claim 7. Claims 6 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form, and claims 3 and 9 have been amended to depend from claims 1 and 7, respectively. Thus, withdrawal of the objection to claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, and 12 is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,184,043 (Yoshinaga) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,444,326 (Yoshida). This rejection is moot because independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 8, respectively, and claims 4, 5, 10 and 11 are canceled.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:AEG/jnm

Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

Date: March 7, 2007

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